



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - November 7, 2020

Northampton Health Department Issues Mandatory Order on Certain Sports and Recreation Activities in Northampton

NORTHAMPTON - Today, the City of Northampton's Public Health Director, Merridith O'Leary, issued an order that takes effect on Friday, November 13, 2020, at 12:01 a.m., establishing that all sports and recreation activities that involve close, sustained contact between participants, lack of significant protective barriers, and a high probability that respiratory particles will be transmitted between participants are suspended until further notice within the City of Northampton.

"Now is the time to take extra precautionary measures in the face of rising cases nationwide and in Massachusetts," said Health Director O'Leary. "While data shows that normal in-person school activities have not been shown to be problematic for spreading the coronavirus, close-contact sports activities represent a higher risk for our children and our community."

Suspended sports and activities shall include, but not be limited to, football, soccer, baseball, softball, volleyball, wrestling, rugby, basketball, lacrosse, ice-hockey, competitive cheer, martial arts, and ultimate frisbee.

All sports and recreation activities that hope to be exempt from this order must submit plans to the Northampton Health Department for approval prior to commencement of any practice, drill, scrimmage, game and/or tournament.

For more information, please contact the Northampton Health Department at healthdept@northamptonma.gov or at (413) 587-1214.